Municipalities/District Boards. It does not contain any directive for grant of exemption to ex-Servicemen from payment of Municipal taxes.

Attack on BSF Hqr. by Extremists

4733. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent storming of the BSF headquarters in Srinagar on 21st March, 2000 by the extremists once again underscores the need to tighten security arrangements;

(b) whether there is a need to make a fresh appraisal of the threats that exist against the forces based in the valley;

(c) whether Government agree that a comprehensive policy must be evolved to protect our forces and sensitive defence establishments; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Approporiate security measures have been instituted in the wake of some incidents of attacks on establishments of security forces by the terrorist.

The maintenance and improvement of security arrangements at various levels of defence establishments is an on going process. Efforts in that direction continue to be made.

Helicopters to Hit Militants in Doda District

4734. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to slate:

(a) whether helicopters armed with machine guns and rockets were pressed into operation to hit militants' hideouts in snow-cb.d mountains in Doda district on 24th March, 2000;

(b) if so, the results thereof in containing militancy in the area; and

(c) the measures proposed for continuous air surveillance in and J & K area to avoid massacres of the type held in Chathsingpura on 20lh March, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Helicopters were used in Doda District on 25th March 2000,.during a

combined operation of Army and the Air Force. The operation was a success. Further use of helicopters in a gunship role in J & K would depend on the tactical situation.

Appropriate steps continue to be taken to tackle the terrorists in J & K.

Incidences of Killings and Stealing of Organs of Defence Personnel

†4735. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidences of killings of army officers and personnel and stealing of important limbs after killings are taking place in the army;

(b) if not, the reaction of Government over the news-item published in Hindi newspaper "Hindustan" dated the 5lh April, 2000, on front page under the caption "Vayu Adhikari ki Aankhen, gurde va dusre jaruri ang nikale gaya"; and

(c) the steps Government would like to take to prevent the re-occurrence of such incidence?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In an incident of May 1998, an Indian Airforce personnel admitted in a Navy Hospital in Mumbai was suddenly found dead. A post mortem examination was conducted to find out the cause of death. During the post mortem, some internal organs were removed for examination. A Court of Inquiry ordered by the Airforce authroities to inquire into the allegation of theft of internal organs of the late IAF personnel, found the allegation baseless. However, following a complaint made by the lather of the decease, the body was exhumed on the orders of Coroner of Mumbai. The second post morten examination conducted by Coroner's Court, Munmbai and the chemical analysis report did not support the allegation.

(c) Does not arise.

Reductions in Manpower of Indian Army

†4736. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.